

Nation

ALSO INSIDE:  
Radisson Population  
may double

# FIRE IN THE SKY



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## MUSKUUCHII: MORE THAN A MOUNTAIN

Forestry activities in the Cree territory were not widespread or on a large scale when the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement was signed. They were considered to be compatible with the hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering way of life.

But as forests have become depleted further south, as consumption of wood and paper products has increased, and as technological developments have enabled increasingly rapid deforestation carried out 'round the clock, the wave of large-scale forest destruction has penetrated further and further north. No longer are forestry activities compatible with traditional harvesting activities, nor are the environment and wildlife protected. Our territory is becoming a Brazil of the North. Not only have the trees been cut, but a cancer of forestry roads penetrates Cree traplines, bringing southern hunters to previously inaccessible areas. Mining companies are following.

Muskuuchii (Bear Mountain) lies in the southeastern part of JBNQA territory, on land of the Cree Nation of Waskaganish. For as long as the Elders can remember, this mountainous area, the spine of which is about 25 km in length and 10 km in width, has been an abundant source of game, in particular moose, even during times of scarcity elsewhere. In the 1930s, for example, beaver, a staple of the Cree diet, disappeared from Cree territory. Many of our people suffered conditions of starvation and poverty, and were saved from death by the bounty of Muskuuchii. Families travelled great distances to this perpetual source of food.

"Sometimes when we walked on the edge of the mountain, we didn't see any moose tracks. BUT, once we got onto Muskuuchii, WOW! All you could see was nothing but moose tracks and other game." —Bertie Diamond Sr., Elder. "There was a time in life that my family ran out of food for us to eat... If it wasn't for the abundance of food on Muskuuchii we probably wouldn't be around at this very moment. Nobody would see my children and grandchildren running around these days." —Johnny Weistche, Elder.

Because of this reliability as an abundant source of food, Muskuuchii was and continues to be held in great respect and considered sacred. Sacredness was an integral part of life, not something separate from the people and from the practicalities of day-to-day life. Because of the eternal blessings given by Muskuuchii, it was treated with special respect, in order for these blessings to continue.

Everyone tried to have as little impact as possible on the mountain and its wildlife. Noise was kept to a minimum, with no shots being fired on calm days, hunters speaking in whispers, and even accompanying dogs being trained not to bark. Fires were made only for eating and after the moose had been killed. Then the fire was put out and covered to erase even its scent. A trail would be made only in order to carry the moose off the mountain. All sorts of game besides moose were harvested, but these were usually taken from the perimeter and surroundings. No camp would be made on the mountain itself.

"We even used dead trees and brances for tanning moosehide and other purposes, so we didn't have to cut wood and scare the game away." —Hilda Diamond, Elder

"A white man will do anything for money. They don't ask or negotiate. They just go ahead as long as money is the issue." —George Diamond Sr., Elder

"We must fight as hard against forestry activities as against hydroelectric megaprojects. Cutting of our forests will just as surely as dams result in their destruction and the disappearance of the wildlife, and consequently of the Cree traditional pursuits and way of life." —Billy Diamond, Chief

*From a pamphlet by the Waskaganish First Nation.*

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## COVER PHOTO:

The meteorite impact site  
north of Whapmagoostui

Photo by: Samuel Cox  
Cover design: Katerina Cizek



PHOTO BY SAMUEL COK

**Ground Zero**

Circumstances beyond my control, at the time, called that I take the scenic route home while investigating the "sighting" in Great Whale. More on that later.

We stopped at Checkpoint Charlie just north of Matagami. We had to. I don't know what would have happened if we hadn't. They'd probably send the SQ arm of their forces after us. And blow us to kingdom come. So we weren't about to take the chance.

We drive into occupied Cree territory. Much has changed since everyone's last ride through here. Of course you rarely meet someone on this road. You have the road to yourself. It's great. Rarely patrolled. But that's changing.

The route was scenic the last time I drove this way. We drove through kilometres of land where trees had been cut. Just off the highway. They don't even bother to hide what they're doing like they do further south in the touristy areas. That's cause they want do it fast. Before we find out what's really going on.

They know deep down what they've been doing is wrong but they've come to the point of not caring much about us. (They see money in them thar hills!) I know. I've worked alongside these people. They'll steal your ideas, just so they can bask in what little glory there is in them. They piss me off.

Sorry about that outburst. (But you know, if you want to hear the full story on their thievery, watch out for my book tentatively titled, I Wanna Tell Ya due out at the turn of the millennium. In it will be revealed who Chef Jean Cuisine really is.)

We passed other destroyed areas along the way. But these ones were courtesy of Mother Nature herself. This summer's forest fires scorched pine trees turning

them a deep rust color. The ground beneath them was black and new grass exploded with green all over.

That's the difference when man and nature destroy the earth. Nature's destruction can actually be very beautiful and has a useful purpose while the companies' work leaves an ugly taste in the mouth and its main purpose is money.

Which brings us to the purpose of our trip to Whapmagoostui. To see for ourselves the creation of a new bay. It looks a bit messy now, but I'm sure it'll be beautiful when nature's finished its work. No one's sure what it is that made the crater there. Was it man or nature? Or aliens? Many are positive it was a meteor. Some were seen panicking saying it's the Mir Space Station's debris. The official word, of course, is that it's nothing but a landslide, or a sinkhole. If it is a landslide, as some people are saying, what size was the mountain the landslide came from? Of course there's the theories that it was in actual fact an alien craft that crash landed. Fifty years after the Roswell incident, coincidentally. Around the time of the meteor crash, some hunters reported seeing a black submarine-like object swimming around out on the bay. And reports of other "sightings" went up slightly after the Great Whale incident. (While we're on the subject, people, keep your cameras handy for your next sighting.) Many people wondered what would have happened had the fireball landed on the LG-2 dams. Hydro Quebec, and Chisasibi for that matter, would have been washed to the sea.

In the end we never made it to the sight. The weather intervened, leaving Kuujjuaq shrouded in thick fog. Much like the story. But we're working on it.

by Ndamon

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## QUEBEC WANTS TO DOUBLE SIZE OF RADISSON “THEY WANT TO OCCUPY THE TERRITORY,” SAYS HQ UNION

The Quebec government wants to move ahead with plans to occupy Iiyiuuschi by doubling the size of Radisson with extra Hydro-Quebec workers.

But HQ and its employees already oppose the plan. The workers don't want to live in the North and wonder why the idea is being promoted.

“They want to occupy the territory. It's political,” said Hydro union leader Pierre Hadd, who opposes the plan. Hadd is president of the 400-member HQ blue-collar union, James Bay local.

Another Hydro worker in James Bay who opposes the plan agreed. “They want whites in the territory of James Bay. If they have no whites there, the government has less power in negotiations over the territory,” he said, asking to remain anonymous.

Under the government's plan, the population of Radisson would increase from 500 residents to nearly 900. A working group that held hearings in Radisson recommended the idea recently.

The working group's members include Hydro employees, Radisson businesses and local non-Native entities, but no Crees.

A government spokesman said Resources Minister Guy Chevrette agrees with the recommendation. “The minister was favourable to the idea,” said Charles Larochele.

At present, 915 HQ workers are shuttled into the North for eight-day shifts (10 hours per day), followed by six days off. The working group says Hydro could save money if 380 of them lived full-time in Radisson.

A 1995 report by HQ said Radisson is not viable if it is kept open just to serve Hydro's needs. Cree officials say Quebec made a verbal

commitment to close down Radisson at the time the James Bay Agreement was signed.

“We've always said it was a temporary village only to be used when construction was going on,” said Chisasibi Chief Charles Bobbush. He said funds spent on economic development in Radisson would be better spent in the Cree communities.

A member of the working group, Claude Gagne of the Radisson Development Corporation, said Crees will benefit from Hydro's increased presence in James Bay.

“There is a problem of unemployment in the territory, whether Native or non-Native. Not one Cree chief will deny that.”

But Hydro spokesman Guy Litalien was skeptical about the idea. “You can't force people to live there. The Crees also, they don't want too many people in Radisson. You have to take that into account.”

Hadd, the union leader, said the plan won't save HQ any money and will hurt the utility because highly skilled workers needed to work in the North do not want to live in Radisson full-time.

“You can't uproot people from their families. You can't create a village by forcing people to go there. They will never create citizens like this,” said Hadd, an electrician at LG-3.

Why would the government go through with a plan that doesn't make financial sense? Says the anonymous Hydro worker: “The occupation of a territory has nothing to do with finances.”

Last month, Chevrette set up a committee to implement the recommendations.

The committee, which has no Cree members, is now negotiating with HQ and its workers.

by Alex Roslin

## RCMP ARMS FOR CONFLICT WITH NATIVE PEOPLE

The RCMP is buying its own fleet of armoured vehicles just as a rise in conflicts with Native people has been predicted by Mountie intelligence officers.

The fleet will include two Nyala RG-31 armoured vehicles to be purchased from South Africa, which often used similar vehicles to put down black uprisings in the days of apartheid.

The fleet will cost \$8.5 million.

A Mountie spokesman said the RCMP wants the vehicles for crashing barricades and rescue operations. He denied the \$8.5-million purchase has anything to do with Native protests.

But Jean La Rose of the Assembly of First Nations was skeptical.

“Rescue from what? These things sink like rocks. I imagine they don't want them for general all-purpose use, either.”

The vehicles hold 10 troops and three crew, and boast heavier armour than the older models used by Canada's army. Heavy-calibre automatic cannons and machine guns normally mounted on the vehicles will be removed, the RCMP says.

At the same time, an internal RCMP intelligence report leaked to newspapers predicts Native “unrest” because Canada is ignoring First Nations concerns.

RCMP says “a long string of broken promises” has left Native people frustrated.

The Mounties say Native people believe extreme tactics get results because the government has given in to protesting Native people in the past.

“Confrontations and violent standoffs are likely to increase in the coming years,” says RCMP intelligence.

“Land claims and unresolved treaty issues will be at the root of most incidents, and the federal government's lukewarm response to the 1996 Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples Report, and its proposed amendments to the Indian Act, will exacerbate the situation.”

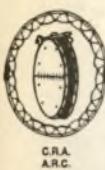
The RCMP believes British Columbia is in for the worst of the “unrest.”

The report was released to Southam Newspapers after an Action to Information request, but was heavily edited.

-Alex Roslin

△PP° CCRP

CREE REGIONAL AUTHORITY  
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## Job Posting

### POSITION: Corporate Secretary

The Grand Council of the Crees/Eeyou Estchee/Cree Regional Authority is seeking a fluently bilingual Quebec/Ontario - licenced lawyer to join our organization as corporate secretary. This individual is that of an officer of both entities carrying on the responsibilities incumbent on that person under the Act respecting the Cree Regional Authority (Special legislation enacted by the National Assembly pursuant to the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement) and the Constituting documents of the Grand Council.

He/she is responsible for the compilation and distribution of notices of meetings, assisting in the preparation of agendas and acting as recording secretary of meetings of the members of the entities, the Council and Board of Compensation of the Cree Regional Authority, and the Board of Directors of the Grand Council. The preparation of minutes, submission for adoption, the preparation, review and certification of resolutions and the carrying out of directives, including the review and updating of by-laws and the organization and keeping of relevant documentation.

The successful candidate must have seven (7) years of experience in a related field. However, an educational shortfall could be substituted with pertinent experience for candidates that originate from any of the nine Cree communities in Eeyou Estchee. A strong knowledge of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement and willingness to travel in Cree territory (Eeyou Estchee) is also required. A knowledge of Cree would be an asset.

This position offers an attractive package of fringe benefits. Salary is commensurate with ability and experience. Applications will be handled confidentially. Please reply to:

**Cree Regional Authority/  
Grand Council of the Crees/Eeyou Estchee  
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WILL NICHOLLS

## HOMES STAND EMPTY AS FUNDS STALLED

Robert Jimikin says he isn't impressed with the new Minister of Indian Affairs, Jane Stewart. Mistissini's director of public works says Indian Affairs is going backwards in dealing with Native housing issues. "There's so much red tape required to release funding it's a headache for us," he says.

Jimikin was talking about six houses taken off of their foundations for Mistissini for renovations. The move displaced families who had to look for other accommodations, store their furniture and personal possessions until the renovations were complete. But the renovations are on hold because of problems getting the promised Indian Affairs funding, and the families are still out in the cold.

The delay is due to a cabinet change after this year's federal election says Jimikin. He said the feds have reneged on their pre-election promises. "When we were informed in March, everything was finalized. It was just a formality having a new cabinet, plus the commitments or agreements made by the former administration would be honoured. But the new cabinet that came in has their own policies and criteria."

The problems stem from an announcement by Indian Affairs about a year and a half ago, Jimikin says. Indian Affairs said they would inject more funding into renovation programs. Included in the package was about \$6.5 million earmarked for the Crees. Mistissini had a number of pre-fab houses the community needed renovations on. The total project would cost \$1.3 million.

Jimiken says the construction committee met, and armed with the promises of funding, put the project together. They would renovate 17

foundations. They proceeded to hire local labour required to do the job.

The Mistissini Band used bridge financing to start the renovations based on promises from Indian Affairs that the problems will be over. But things are now on hold since the funding still hasn't materialized. "Even as I talk to them, they keep saying next Friday. It'll be settled but there is still nothing confirmed in writing to us. We are taking a big risk on our part," Jimikin says.

Other projects also depend on these funds. "We have to work on the extension of the infrastructure (water, sewage, roads, etc.) for the new area. Our funding is very tight," Jimikin adds. "Everything has been tied up at the political level. Here we are at the local level trying to provide services and decent accommodations for people. Our hands are tied most of the time."

Jimikin said they are pressuring the negotiation team to settle things for once and all. Personally, he will stay out of the negotiations. He said any contacts with Indian Affairs would be made through local political leaders. "I try to stay away from the politics. My interest is in the administration and making sure that we serve our people even though we have difficulties," he says.

"Everything becomes a problem now. Everything stops for the construction holiday. If we go beyond the end of July, we are looking at completing a project sometime in late November. That's without taking into account other factors," Jimikin remarks.

The other factors add to the costs of building in the North. The money used for bridge financing could be earning interest in the bank but now that money is lost, Jimikin said.

by William Nicholls

## MISTISSINI COPS MAKE WAVES

Mistissini Police are proud of their new patrol boat. Michael Petawabano, Mistissini's police chief, said the presence of the police on the water is a necessary one these days.

"There are a lot of people in boats. Some are drinking and there have been some fatal accidents as a result of the consumption of alcohol. If this boat saves one life it's worth it," said Petawabano.

Petawabano said when the police approached the community to buy the boat they were looking at a wide range of uses for the boat.

"If you look at the activities in the community there is a need. Everything from canoe races, beach days, search and rescue as well as regular patrolling duties. We'll see a lot of use for the boat," Petawabano told *The Nation*. He also said he expects that search and rescue will now see a faster response time as the Mistissini police can act on the own initiative.

The new twin 115 H.P. motors cut through rough waves like nothing, bragged one of the other police officers at a local beach day. It isn't expected to cut through jurisdiction though. When asked if this boat would extend the Mistissini police's jurisdiction Petawabano replied that Mistissini has a good working relationship with the Surete in Chibougamau. "I know they wouldn't hesitate to accept our assistance when it's needed. They've asked us in the past and we have that type of relationship with them," said Petawabano.

## RELIEF IN SIGHT FOR COMMISSION

Some Crees may have been irritated by the lack of response from the Cree/Naskapi Commission these days.

Since Judge Rejean Paul temporarily stepped down as the commission's chairman, there have been no commissioners to hear complaints or fulfill its mandates.

But there's some good news as the Crees and Naskapi have held a recent meeting to discuss the commission. Leaders have agreed on three appointments. They are recommending that Philip Awashish and Robert Kanatewat be

continued on page 9

# LES MINES **INMET**

Inmet Mining Corporation, a Canadian based mining company engaged in exploration, development and processing of base and precious metals internationally is presently seeking a dynamic individual to join its Troilus Project. The division is an open-pit gold mining operation, located 175 Km north of Chibougamau, Quebec.

#### The Position: Mechanical Foreman

The incumbent will work on a 7-7 schedule and will be provided room and board at the first rate camp on site. The Mechanical Foreman supervises and coordinates the activities of the mechanical tradesmen.

#### Employment requirements:

- A three (3) year college diploma in mechanical or other related technology;
- A minimum of five (5) years mining mechanical supervisory experience;
- Experience in a cross cultural environment is an asset;
- Working knowledge of French and English;
- Basic knowledge of Cree is an asset.

#### Main duties:

The Mechanical Foreman performs some or all of the following duties:

- Supervises, coordinates and schedules the activities of the maintenance shops;
- Establishes methods to meet work schedules and coordinates work activities with the departments;
- Performs cost and quality control measures;
- Assists in department budget planning;
- Resolves work problems and recommends measures to improve productivity;
- Assures follow-up relating to applicable environmental issues;
- Assures respect to all aspects of health and safety;
- Performs other related duties.

#### The Position: Senior Maintenance Planner

The incumbent will work on a 4-3 schedule and will be provided room and board at the first rate camp on site. The Senior Maintenance Planner provides services to organize and control maintenance activities in the mine and mill.

#### Employment Requirements:

- Completion of a two or three year college program or equivalent in industrial engineering, mining, mechanical or electrical technology is preferred;
- Minimum of 8-10 years or experience in maintenance of mining equipment;
- Working knowledge of French and English is required.

#### Main duties:

The Senior Maintenance Planner performs some or all of the following duties:

- Develops and conducts maintenance planning to ensure cost efficient and timely repair and maintenance of equipment;
- Develops and carries out maintenance procedures and programs;
- Conducts work measurements or other studies;
- Collects and compiles operational and maintenance data and assists in the development of estimates, schedules, specifications and reports, applications;
- Analyzes data and makes recommendations;
- Prepares the mine maintenance budget under the supervision of senior staff;
- Plans inventory
- Makes follow-up with suppliers and manages required claims
- Develops the critical path for all the major projects;
- Coordinates the activities of the shop planner.

#### THE CONDITIONS:

Inmet Mining Corporation (Troilus Project) offers relocation assistance, a competitive salary, complemented by a comprehensive range of company-paid employee benefits. The positions are open to men and women. Also, Inmet Mining Corporation encourages and is committed to Cree hiring. Inmet Mining Corporation thanks all applicants for their interest, but advises that only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Interested candidates should submit their resume, before August 22nd, 1997 indicating the position of interest, to:

**INMET MINING CORPORATION**  
**TROILUS PROJECT**  
Director of Human Resources  
P.O. Box 8700  
Chibougamau (Quebec)  
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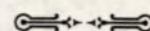
The Chief Constables from the nine Cree Communities

All future major sporting events in Val d'Or involving the Cree Nation, including fastball, softball, hockey and broomball tournaments, will from now on be policed by the Val d'Or Police and Cree Constables sworn in as regular constables.

The first activities are from August 7th to August 10th and the Cree Police Constables are:

Senor Anthony Hester (in charge)  
Clifford Benak  
Johnny Matthews  
Johnny Awashish

**Congratulations**



**continued from page 7**

appointed commissioners. As well they recommended that Richard Saunders, a former commissioner from 1986-1990, be appointed as the interim chairman.

The Cree/Naskapi Commission is responsible for ensuring that the Cree and Naskapi governments govern themselves accordingly. It is now up to the feds to appoint the commissioners.

## SAVE THE MOISIE

The Innu have issued an urgent call for help to ensure that the Moisie River, one of the world's most important salmon habitats, is protected from development.

They want the river declared a permanently protected "Heritage River" by the Quebec government.

The Innu are hoping to flood the Quebec premier's and environment minister's offices with faxes to protect the river.

Hydro-Quebec is plotting new river diversions that would disrupt the Moisie's flow. The proposed diversions were criticized in 1993 by BAPE, the government's environmental watchdog, which held hearings into the project.

The Moisie is North America's greatest salmon spawning ground, with 10-45,000 Atlantic salmon returning every year.

The Innu ask you to send your faxes to Innu lawyer Armand McKenzie who will forward them to the relevant government ministers. Fax: (418) 968-2370.

## CREE SISTERS NEED HOME

A family is needed for two sisters of Cree heritage presently living in a temporary foster home.

Both sisters love the outdoors and need coaxing to return to the house. They enjoy stories and love family activities. They can be competitive but are extremely close.

Maggie is 3 and needs a sensitive ear to help her with the loss of her mother. Beatrice, 2, knows her wishes and communicates clearly: "Please push the swing. Now please stop." They both respond very well to clear rules and warm reminders.

For more information please call Home for Children, (514) 937-9581.



Mistissini cops proud of their new boat.

WILLIAM NICHOLLS

## SENNETERRE CREE YOUTH WANT BACK IN

The Senneterre Crees are coming home. After years of feeling like outsiders in the Cree Nation, they want back in. And no one is more gung-ho than Irene Mianscum.

Irene knows all about home. At 24, she's already lived in Waswanipi, Mistissini, Lac Simon and most recently Senneterre. But during all her travels, her heart was back home in Waswanipi. In March, she moved home with her husband, who now works for Mishtuk, and their son and daughter.

In the last four months, she has thrown herself into community life with a vengeance. She relearned Cree, which she heard growing up but wasn't used to speaking. Now she speaks her language all the time and is teaching it to her kids. She also helps out at community functions by baking cakes. For the school graduation, she made a cake for 300 people. "That was the biggest cake I've made," she laughs.

Irene, who is 24, has also quickly risen to a position on the executive committee of the Cree Nation Youth Council and remains co-chair of the Senneterre Native Youth Council (SNYC).

She wants the Senneterre Cree youth to be accepted as full members of the Cree Nation Youth Council and fully involved in the Cree Nation's activities. "That's why I moved to Waswanipi, to find out what I should do—to find out how to fight for the people in Senneterre."

Senneterre youth are enthusiastic and eager to get involved. They want to learn more about the liiyuu hunting way of life and the liiyuu language. They also need jobs and adult education.

"It's pretty hard for Natives to find jobs in Senneterre," said Michel Nayassit, who is vice-president of the Youth Centre in the Senneterre Native

Friendship Centre. Nayassit, 18, blames discrimination against Native job-seekers. He says the only jobs for Natives are in the Friendship Centre.

Five Senneterre youth will travel as delegates to the Cree Nation Youth Assembly in Mistissini, July 29 to Aug. 1. Some of the youth planned to return home by canoe tracing the water route of the Cree canoe brigades of yesteryear. But the trip had to be postponed for lack of money.

At present, Senneterre youth don't receive any stable source of funding. While the CNYC has helped out on a project-by-project basis, most of their funds come from bingos, pool tournaments, car washes and other fundraisers.

Irene praised CNYC chairman Bertie Wapachee for his help. But the Senneterre youth still don't feel completely welcome.

"We would like more recognition within the CNYC," says Vivian Cooper. "We feel like they don't really want us."

"We would like to be more informed about what's happening," agrees Pauline Ruperhouse-Mark, 22, SNYC co-chair.

Education is one topic Pauline plans to raise in Mistissini. While Senneterre Crees have the right to post-secondary education like any other Cree, two years ago they were told they could no longer participate in the Cree Adult Education program because of the 10-year clause in the James Bay Agreement, said Pauline.

She said local Crees would like their own reserve, "like Ouje-Bougoumou," which would be the 10th member of the GCCQ. Many of the local Crees have long roots with traplines in the area, she said. "Even though we live in town, we don't want to be left out. We would like for them to see us as Crees too."

by Alex Roslin

# THE TRUTH IS DOWN THERE



PHOTOS BY SAMUEL COX

**By Ernest Webb**

Whapmagoostui, June 27th. The sky turns black, thunder and lightning strikes. Through the clouds comes the fireball. It disappears behind the horizon, then the fireball strikes with a loud bang and flash.

The Inuit hunters who were five miles north of Ground Zero thought that Whapmagoostui was hit. They radioed in to make sure Whapmagoostui was still on the map. Ground Zero, Kaamkopskaatch Sibii, is located 10 miles north of Whapmagoostui.

The Inuit hunters were the closest witnesses to the impact of the fireball. They had gone on a hunting trip and passed by the site on Friday the 27th. When they returned on Monday the 30th, a new bay had been carved out of the shoreline in front of Moses Sandy's hunting cabins.

An employee from the Whapmagoostui Nation office said, "People are still in awe," she said. "They are still going there to check it out."

Josie George, who is the Public Safety Officer, said no official word has been issued from the Band Council pending tests to be conducted by NASA divers, who are coincidentally conducting tests on Crater Lake further north.

Lloyd Cheechoo, executive director of the James Bay Cree Communications Society, went to visit the site and said it was "amazing." He hired a canoe to go there. "Floating over Ground Zero was eerie, I could see the rim and the black hole."

Cheechoo said the crater was as big as a house, and the whole area affected had about a quarter-mile radius. Debris was discovered three miles out on an ice floe. Cheechoo said the Elders in the area told him of similar meteorite hits in years gone by.

Sam Cox of Chisasibi visited the site on July 9th and described it as a "big hole in the ground" with the trees floating around as if someone had scrunched them up and thrown them into the water.

Geologists from the Centre d'Études Nordiques, affiliated with Laval University who have an office in Whapmagoostui, offer a

more mundane explanation. They offered the scenario of a so-called sinkhole or landslide.

However, many other reports of fireballs plunging towards Earth, keep coming in. Anthony Ittoshat, Mayor of Kuujjuuarapik, says he also saw a "fireball" falling towards the site. But he says his sighting was at 7 to 8 p.m. the 22nd of June. Ittoshat was at the ball field at the time for the St. John the Baptist baseball game.

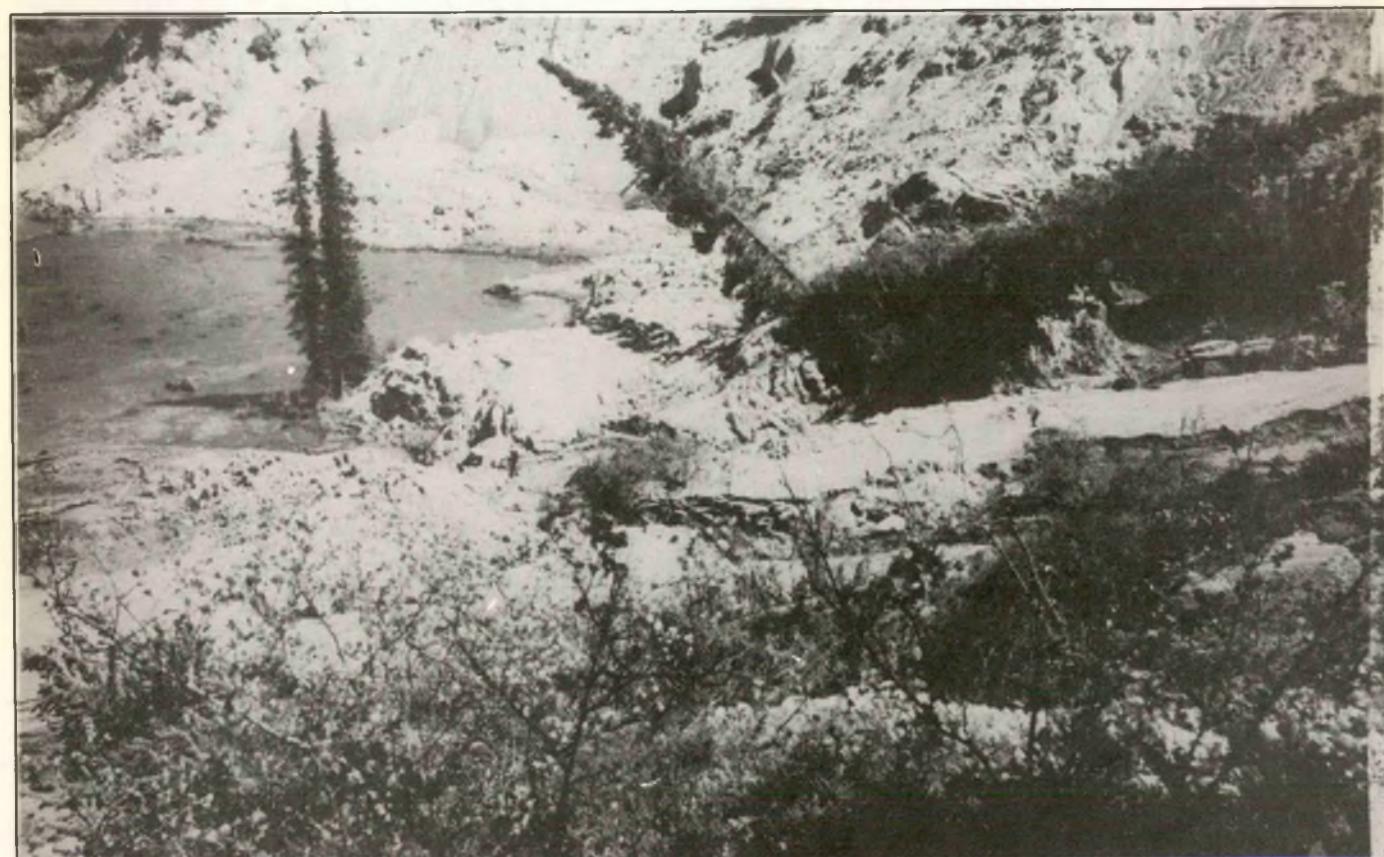
This raises the possibility of two separate meteors. There are also reports of two separate tremors at the time. The Geological Survey of Canada confirms that a "perturbation" was recorded at 7:52-7:55 p.m. on June 22 at its seismograph located at LG-4, 210 kilometres away. Another tremor was felt in the Puvirnituq area. In fact, fireballs were reported on four different days: June 22, 24, 27 and July 4.

Geologists are stumped by the cause of the tremors, but say weather is probably responsible. They are downplaying the bizarre events. The new 350-metre-long by 150-metre-wide bay is open to debate as to how it was carved out. Unless you saw little green men crawling out of the hole, you can write off the alien ship theory.

Ittoshat also visited the crater. "Awesome" is how he described it. "There's no other way to describe it. There's got to be a lot of power there." He is convinced it was created by a fireball. "You call that a landslide... Geez."

In a canoe, he used his depthsounder to measure the floor of the bay. It has the dimensions of a crater, shallow around the rim and gradually getting deeper toward the middle at a 45-degree angle. In the middle is a hole that drops off suddenly and looks pitch black from the surface. Its depth is 33 feet. It appears like a chunk of the former beach is ripped away and a cliff now juts out of the water 10 to 20 feet high.

The geologists do agree on one thing. A meteor that size hits the Earth only once in 100 or even 1,000 years.



# Book launch in Chisasibi

By Margaret Sam-Cromarty

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Escape to the luxurious Le Centre Sheraton in downtown Montreal for only \$114.50\*. Relieve that excess stress in our newly renovated pool and spa, or stroll through the nearby shopping district. For the more adventurous types, Le Centre Sheraton offers a VIP access card to the Montreal Casino and great coupons for discounts on exciting attractions such as La Ronde. Call 514 878-2000 or 1 800 325-3535 for reservations.

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I had a book launching on June 20, 1997 in Chisasibi. It was a new experience for me and possibly for everyone else who was there that evening, and perhaps for those who couldn't be there.

I invited other artists to participate in this event; some came, others did not. It is an educational and interesting evening.

I'd like to thank some of the people who were there:

First my Master of Ceremonies, Larry Wash. As an MC, he is much sought-after in Chisasibi. I am a devout fan. Thank you, Larry, for coming to my book launching.

Next is Eliza Webb who gave the opening and closing prayers quickly and efficiently. She was to go camping that weekend but, trained to help others, she came to my launching. Thank you, Eliza.

Felicity Fanjoy had an unexpectedly interesting introduction. I really enjoyed it. After all, happiness is a good introduction. Thank you, Felicity.

Hélène Roy's contributions I value greatly. I think Hélène and I did well on stage. Hélène was in control. Thank you, Hélène.

Two skilled photographers came to the launching. One of the greatest roles of photography is to record and preserve images worthy to be handed down as a heritage for all generations. Thank you, Jimmy Sam and Brian Stewart.

Most remarkable was the singing voice of young Robert Bobbish. His voice is strong. He is an artist who believes it is the passion, simplicity and sincerity to bring to his listeners. Thank you, Robert.

Margaret Louttit and Virginia Gilpin possess wonderful singing voices. To these two beautiful women, my compliments. Thank you, Margaret and Virginia.

I appreciate the unaffected style of Roger House. Thank you, Roger, for singing your classical ballad "The Beaver Man." I pay you tribute.

A recognition for excellent fiddle music goes to James Stewart and Malcolm House, the original Fiddlers of James Bay. I was honoured to have them at my launching. Thank you, James and Malcolm.

We started the evening with the sacred drum and young Pow Wow singers. Thank you, Thomas and Derek Bobbish. Some day you will be head people with high honours.

There was the attractive young Pow Wow dancer. She was marvelous as she danced. I admired this young dancer. Thank you, Elizabeth Matches.

I appreciated the appearance of Beulah Stewart, a talented unique poet, and the most original was a poem from young Hannah Louttit. Thank you for being there, Beulah and Hannah.

Kathleen Kitty, a Cree kindergarten teacher, is surrounded by children during the day. I am a firm believer that success comes at any age. She is best known for her humorous Cree children's songs. Thank you, Kathleen and Samuel Kitty.

Last but not least, I thank my publisher for coming to my launching. An unforgettable man. I thank you, Jean Ferguson of D'ici et d'ailleurs.

I direct attention to my daughter Shelley who almost single-handedly worked hard for this important function. Thank you, Shelley.

I thank the many people who helped in other ways, and the people who came to my launching. I thank you all.

It was complete with a buffet.

## A Bog and a Town

By Margaret Sam-Cromarty

I went to help William gather up his decoys  
after another finished spring hunt.  
I told him, "I'm going to the flats to pick some drift wood.  
Wait for me."  
I had to cross a bog (some call it a marsh) to get to the flats.  
A flash of colour caught my eye.  
In this remote bog were these beautiful wild yellow flowers.  
They opened their petals to the pleasantly warm sun.

I could not resist picking them.  
I tried to get them at the roots, but failed.  
William told me later, "They are rooted flowers that  
anchor the bog in place."  
I left them alone. Those flowers are a part of the bog.  
All the flowers join at the roots. If you pull one out, you separate  
the maze.  
I looked longingly at the magnificent display of the handiwork  
of nature.

What a delightful world. In the bog everything works together:  
flowers, insects,  
grasses, birds and so on.

A town or a village follows the same general pattern.  
We, the people of a town, perform various tasks.  
Some of us have slight tasks—it varies from person to person—  
but we all  
depend on each other.

Manual work like carpentry, sewing, cooking, sports, reading or  
writing.  
Artists (this field is tough)  
We all offer our town something to build up through the years,  
distinctive and beautiful.  
We are dazzling yellows, brilliant blues or emerald greens.  
These are the same colours you find in a bog.  
There is no better way to give to our town  
and to ourselves than by working together.  
It's so simple.

# Cree Nation Invitational Tournament

**AUGUST 7,8,9,10 1997**

**VAL D'OR (QUÉBEC)**

**Over 50 teams!  
Competing for \$40,000+**

**GOOD LUCK TO ALL TEAMS!**

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Competition Softball**  
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**Inscription costs vary**

**Prizes subject to change  
as per number of teams**



# The Best James Bay has to offer

Who is the best Cree athlete? Who has made the best community contributions? Who is the smartest Cree? Who has the best nickname?

Now, for the first time, you can cast your own votes. We are asking all our readers to take the time to fill out your picks for the Best James Bay Has to Offer. There are two categories: one for Cree Achievements and one for Consumer Awards.

The deadline is August 29. Those who fill out the form will be entered in a draw for two free plane rides anywhere Air Creebec flies in the world.

## Cree Achievement Awards

1a. Best Community Contribution by a Cree (Man)

1 b. Best Community Contribution by a Cree (Woman)

2a. Most Outstanding Elder (Man)

2b. (Woman)

3. Most Outstanding Youth

4. Most Outstanding Tallyman

5. Best Hunter

6. Best Fisherman

7. Fastest Goose Plucker

8. Best Story-Teller (legends, fish stories)

9. Best Bush Camp

10. Best Politician

11. Most Disliked Politician (Cree and non-Cree)

12. Best Public Speaker

13. Cree Most Likely to Change the System

14. Cree Most Likely to Lead Us in the Next Millennium

15. Best Police Officer

16. Best Social Worker

17. Best Teacher

18a. Best Athlete (Man)

18b. Best Athlete (Woman)

19a. Best Cook (Man)

19b. Best Cook (Female)

20a. Best Artist (Man)

20b. Best Artist (Woman)

21. Best Coach

22. Best Fiddler

23. Best Rock Group/Musical Performer

24. Best Drumming Group (Cree or non-Cree)

25a. Best Square-Dancer (Man)

25b. Best Square Dancer (Woman)

26. Best Cultural Contribution

27. Best Pow Wow/Summer Games

28. Best Traditional Craftsperson

29. Best Cree Media Person (radio, tv, print, hosts)

30. Best Cree Entity/Corporation

31. Best Cree Employer

32. Funniest Cree

33. Best Gossipier

34. Smartest Cree

35. Best Nickname

36. Cree Closest to Sainthood

37. Best Yard

38. Best Logo (entities, corporations)

39. Coolest Vehicle (car, boat, truck, etc.)

40. Nicest Smile

41. Nicest Person

42. Best Pool Player

43. Best Checkers/Chess Player

44. Best UFO Sighting Spot

45. Most Charitable Cree Company/Entity

46. Best Band Council

47. Worst Band Council

# Consumer Awards

NOTE: For this category, please include Cree and non-Cree businesses located in the Cree communities, Val d'Or, Chibougamau, Montreal, etc.

1. Best Auto Dealer

2. Best Snowmobile Dealer

3. Best Restaurant

4. Worst Restaurant

5. Best Hamburger

6. Best Pizza

7. Best Bar/Club

8. Best Grocery Store

9. Rowdiest Bar

10. Best Hotel

11. Best Hunting Supplies

12. Best Fishing Supplies

13. Best Sports Supplies

14. Best Bridal Shop

15. Best Flower Shop

16. Best Jewellery Store

17. Best Children's Clothing

18. Best Toy Store

19. Best Furniture Shop

20. Best Music Shop

21. Coolest Clothes store

22. Cheapest Clothing Store

23. Best Gift Shop

24. Best Hair Salon

25. Best Hairdresser

26. Favourite Airline

27. Best Overall Business

28. Friendliest Staff/Best Service

29. Best Tournament

30. Wildest Tournament

31. Favourite Movie

32. Favourite Movie Star

33. Favourite Music Album

34. Favourite Music Group/Performer

## PRIZE FORM

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Fax this form to: (514) 278-9914  
Or mail to: 5678 Parc Ave., P.O. Box  
48036, Montreal, Qc., H2V 4S8

## Maamuitaau

On CBC TV

### August 16 and 17

The Inuit and Cree residents of Great Whale have a good relationship within their community, however a different attitude exists on the land. **Maamuitaau** examines the allegations of Inuit people setting up camps on Cree traplines north of the 55th parallel. Also on the program, Elder Andrews Natachequan from Whapmagoostui entertains us with his traditional drumming and singing.

### August 23 and 24

Phasing out the leg hold trap and a treaty banning the sale of furs sold to European countries could present an uncertain future for some Cree residents. **Maamuitaau** talks with Harry Hughboy about his traditional way of life and the impact of this new legislation. Also on the program an illusive tale of musk ox in the Chisasibi area that has become a reality.

#### Watch **Maamuitaau**:

Saturdays	06:58	SRC
Sundays	07:00	CBMT
	18:00	SRC

(subject to change)

**CBC**  North

# HAS QUEBEC CHANGED ITS MIND?

**Contrary to Quebec's promise in the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement to finance the development of the Cree communities, the Grand Council received this letter in 1978:**

Quebec, May 17, 1977

Government of Quebec  
Ministry of Natural Resources

Dear Sir:

As agreed to during our meeting of May 12, 1977 with respect to municipal infrastructures, and particularly, with respect to article 28.11.1 of the Agreement, I have consulted with Mr. Guy Poitras in order to determine the extent of the obligations of Quebec on this question. At his request, I would like to inform you of the position taken by our office.

As well, I should like to inform you that the conclusions at which we have arrived are the same as those expressed by the representatives of the Department of Municipal Affairs and myself during our meeting of May 12, 1977. The Coordination Office does not believe that Quebec in virtue of article 28.11.1 of the Agreement, has made itself liable to any financial contribution with respect to Category 1A lands. During the negotiations, the Crees refused any municipal jurisdiction on the part of Quebec on these lands and implicitly, by this action, found themselves ineligible for the application of programs which Quebec would make applicable to municipalities.

However, to the extent that the Crees are admissible to other programs which are non-municipal in nature, it appears to us that they would be able to benefit from them as any other citizen of Quebec insofar as Quebec has jurisdiction in these matters. At the present time, we could cite as examples, programs relating to education, health, justice and police which apply on Category 1A lands.

It is unfortunate that no more can be done and I remain,

Yours very truly,  
Francois Levesque



Δε<δεο ΡΓΓΔΥΩΛ ΒΔΩΛΔΙ (JVB)  
Grand Council of the Crees (of Quebec)  
Grand Conseil des Cris (du Québec)

ΔΡΥ \* CCRPLA  
CREE REGIONAL AUTHORITY  
ADMINISTRATION RÉGIONALE CRIE



## LAWYER RESPONDS TO ARTICLE

### **Letter to *The Nation*:**

I have deep concerns about the significance given to an article published in the July 4, 1997 *Nation*, entitled: "Lawyer Counsels Against Forestry Deals." I have the feeling that this article is part of a series written lately to discredit the position taken by Chief John Kitchen on the forestry file. I know that you have no obligation to be objective in the treatment of news or issues, but at the very least you could make an effort at being intellectually honest. I also have the impression that you knew exactly what you were doing by printing this article—although I hope I'm wrong. The use of the expression "deal" in the title gives the impression that I'm also against the more recent agreements signed with the trappers, which is not true.

While my policy is never to respond to articles appearing in the media, I am making an exception this time for two main reasons: You are quoting me and I want to prevent you from using me in your on-going quarrels with Chief Kitchen.

Having said this I have a few comments and observations to make about your article. My letter written to Philip Awashish in February 1994 does exactly represent my feelings, then and now. After investigating the situation concerning private deals between trappers and forestry companies (a practice that unfortunately continues to this day), I felt that the trappers were being exploited by the companies which encourage them to go into cheap deals that basically allowed the company unrestricted access to the trapline. How could a trapper say anything about forestry workers destroying a moose yard when the same trapper received a boat engine or a ski-doo from the company that employed those workers? In fact, the companies were undermining the legal position of the trappers by encouraging those one-sided deals. The consequence of these deals are now apparent to everybody: the very existence of the trapline system is now in doubt. Meanwhile, the companies are raking in millions in profits, while the trappers and the community as a whole are suffering. And my feelings have not changed in that respect.

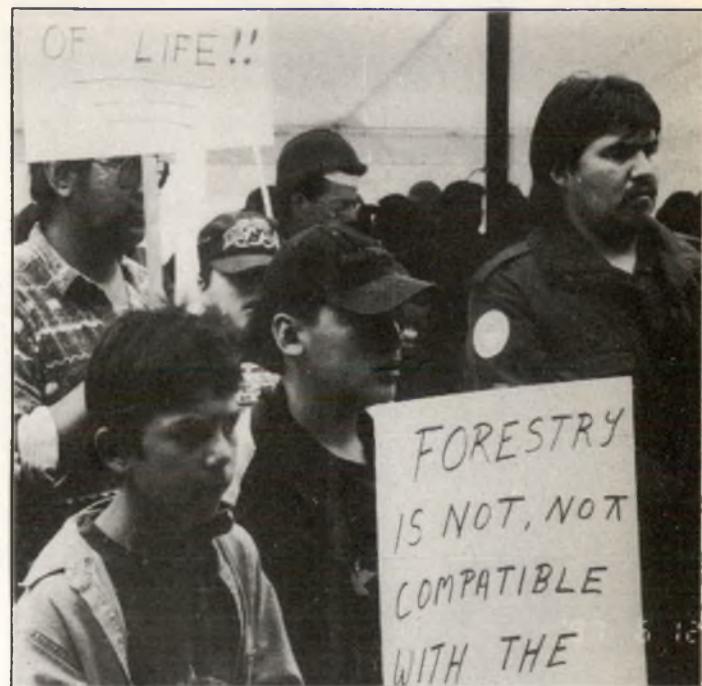
But it is here that your article becomes misleading. My letter was partly concerned about those private deals. My letter has nothing to do with the agreements that Chief Kitchen brokered between certain trappers and forestry companies. I wonder what motivated you in using my concerns over the private deals (which are obvious in the letter) and apply my comments to the agreements facilitated by Chief Kitchen. In fact Chief Kitchen's agreements are an attempt to stop these private deal practices which left the trapper entirely at the mercy of companies. If you had bothered to ask Chief Kitchen about those agreements you would have been able to perceive the important differences between the private deals Waswanipi is trying to stop and the agreements:

(a) The Private Deals (which are part of my concerns in my letter of February 1994)

-The private deals are generally unwritten (although unwritten, they still have the apparent elements of a binding contract).

-The private deals have a main purpose: to give the company access to the trapper's lands in exchange of a small consideration such as an engine, the construction of a cabin, a chain-saw, a ski-doo, sometimes a truck, or a combination thereof.

-The other purpose of the private deal is to force the trapper to feel obligated to the company, to put him in a situation where he cannot prevent the company from exploiting the forested



part of the land in the manner chosen by the company.

-Private deals do not involve any form of consultation on the part of the company. In other words, the company doesn't care about the trapper and his concerns.

-In consequence, the companies do as they please, and make a lot of money on the backs of the trappers.

However, there is a flip side to these private deals. By entering into those deals, the companies unwittingly acknowledge that the trappers have some form of proprietary interest in the land. This means that the companies, despite Quebec's Forestry Act which does not recognize the rights of the trappers and the trapline system, do somewhat feel uncomfortable just entering into a trapline without some form of consent from the trapper. Obviously, the companies think that the private deal with a trapper is the expression of the trapper's consent. And I would say that in the present state of the justice system, the companies feel it can use the private deal against the trappers.

(b) The Agreements (which are not the object of my letter, as you wrongly imply)

-The agreements are written documents, thus affording the trappers some form of protection.

-One of the main purposes of these agreements was to force the company to consult with the trappers at the moment of the preparation of cutting plans. Consequently, at least on paper, the companies are restrained in their ability to cut trees wherever they can.

-The agreements offered remedial measures.

-The agreements forced on the companies a number of constraints in the way the trees were harvested, beyond the standards set in the Forestry Act.

-The agreements are limited in time.

Con'd on page 18

-The agreements were always seen in Waswanipi as interim measures until a comprehensive policy on forestry and traplines is prepared either by the community or by the GCCQ/CRA.

-Before the agreements were prepared, Chief Kitchen solicited from the families concerned by the agreements their views and concerns.

-The trappers supported the Chief in his efforts to broker those agreements. It was apparent to them that these agreements were a net improvement on the practices of the private deals.

-The agreements were clear that these do not affect any of the Cree rights on the land. The companies had attempted to convince the trappers not to include that kind of provisions, but Chief Kitchen rightly insisted on their maintenance.

-In contrast to the situation some years ago, the companies are now controlled through the effects of the Quebec Forest Act, which does set a series of minimal standards in logging practices. This may not satisfy the Crees, but considered objectively, the law does force the companies to act in a more responsible way. However, I would still hold the companies responsible for past damages caused on traplines.

The Chief will be the first to admit that the existing agreements are far from perfect. For example, these failed to set up a monitoring mechanism to control the companies' behaviour with respect to their statutory and contractual obligations. These must, however, be seen as the first attempt from the community to stop the nonsense of the private deals. At the present moment, an effort is being conducted in the community to prepare a policy concerning trappers, traplines, the presence of companies on Waswanipi traditional territory, and the issue of exploitation of natural resources, especially forests. Once this exercise is completed, it is hoped that this issue will be put to rest. But I doubt that personal attacks on Chief Kitchen, or the negative attitudes of certain people in this community, will have any beneficial effect on the process.

In preparing those agreements, Chief Kitchen was responding to numerous requests in that sense from the trappers. If the only result of his effort was to awake the Grand Council to the pressing issue of forestry, then the whole exercise was worthwhile. It seemed for awhile that the Grand Council was more preoccupied with international issues and with Hydro development. But we are now perceiving that the Grand Council is finally responding. Maybe they are acknowledging the growing trend among First Nations or Tribal organizations (i.e. Meadow Lake Tribal Council, to name but one) to participate in the harvesting of trees without duly affecting the local ecology and traditional activities.

On the subject of your article, I am therefore asking you to correct the impression you gave to the people that I was against Chief Kitchen's efforts in trying to solve a pressing problem while finding a more permanent solution that would satisfy the trappers and their families. Those who are criticizing Chief Kitchen have so far offered no alternatives. Chief Kitchen is as preoccupied as any Cree about the viability of the trapline system of economy and way of life. His whole approach to the forestry issue is to encourage the formulation of a regional policy that would secure the traditional way of life while offering relief to the problem of unemployment plaguing the communities today. But the eventual solution must contain the following elements:



- That an acknowledgement from the governments that the James Bay Territory belongs to the Crees who have been the historic guardians and users of it;

- That the allocation of lands for the purpose of exploitation of its resources must be the subject of the consent of the Cree people;

- That the standards applied to the exploitation of natural resources (water, forests, minerals) be set by the Crees;

- That any revenues resulting from economic activity related to natural resources must be shared with the Crees;

- That any economic activity involving natural resources must take into account the need to ensure the continued existence of the traplines and other traditional activities;

- That access to the Territory (and especially by non-Native sports-people) be rigorously controlled as not to affect the activities in the traplines;

- That compensation be considered for those tallymen affected by the indiscriminate exploitation of forests;

- That any present and future economic activities resulting from the exploitation of natural resources must offer meaningful business opportunities and employment opportunities for the Crees;

- That a Land Commission under a renegotiated JBNQA be established to protect Cree land heritage and to monitor activities related to the exploitation of natural resources with broad powers of investigation and intervention;

- That the Forest Act, and any other federal and provincial legislative instrument dealing with natural resources, be modified in consequence;

- That the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement be modified to take into account the list of statements found above.

In concluding, I cannot resist adding a few personal comments about Waswanipi and the sawmill, since you seem intent at

listening uncritically to your single important source who is quoted to have "cojones." Perhaps people with "cojones" would be better off with a bit of brains. Whether you like it or not, I'll offer the views of an "outside observer" who has been in and out of the community for the better part of 10 years.

1. Waswanipi supports the sawmill (whatever you or others might think). I've followed the debate on forestry in Waswanipi for many years. Contrary to some written reports in the media and elsewhere, I fail to see how one can come to the conclusion that this community is divided on the question of the establishment of the sawmill. It could be more accurate to say that the great majority of the people in the community favour the sawmill and have consistently expressed their approval in many meetings and votes conducted on the subject. This does not mean that some people are not worried about the sawmill and its attending activities. But in the whole, the people have been satisfied at the progress of this file and that the concerns of the people are being taken into account. I've heard those who were against. They were usually successful at monopolizing the microphone in general assemblies, but failed to sway the people in their direction despite wild accusations and angry outbursts against the Chief or Peter Gull. Elders have stood up many times to ask the opponents to pipe down the rhetoric. They (the Elders) also pointedly supported the Chief at critical times. If the people had been unsupportive, the sawmill would not have been built and the promoters would not have been able to change that.

2. Your reporting of the events surrounding the sawmill's inauguration is inaccurate and misleading (you should know; you were there). You report on page 5 of your July 4 edition that: "He (Bouchard) attended the grand opening of Waswanipi's sawmill, where a group (sic) of protesters was on hand to speak out..." A person who was not present at the event might think by reading your article that many people were protesting, and that they were present since the beginning of the ceremony; how else would one interpret the expression "was on hand"? First, the group would be best described as a handful of people, composed in all of two adults and some children. Secondly, they were not "on hand." The ceremony had already started when the leader of the protest and his single adult follower showed up. You fail to mention in your text that after a few minutes of shouting, your protesters were compelled to listen to a lesson on civility and Cree customs by the emcee (Romeo Saganash), and having been properly lectured in good manners, they preferred wisely to disappear from the front scene, having correctly determined that nobody stood up to support them. Of course, you had to understand Cree to seize this dramatic moment in civic education. You even had an irate father who expressed his extreme unhappiness at the leader of the protest from having forced his son to the event. It turned out that the son in question had no clue of what he was doing.

In your sidebar on the same page, you say that the protesters were encouraged by the "quiet nods of approval" from the Elders. I'm sorry, but I didn't see that. I was right there with a camera. All I saw was dismay and a sense of collective shame. If

you heard someone comment that the leader of the protest had "cojones," I on the other hand heard many more people utter unprintable and irreverential comments about our protester. As for the "boos," you could not have heard many of these: The people in Waswanipi are polite and respectful. As for the leader of the protest, I felt sadness for him. He was a lonely man. I find it remarkable that the persons who sided with him in his opposition to the sawmill were all conveniently absent (although present in the community). He was a man abandoned. I must say, however, that of all those who protested against the sawmill, Paul Dixon is at least consistent with his beliefs. I, for one, respect him for that.

It is interesting that you were not in the least interested by the fact that more than two dozen Waswanipi citizens have now found employment at the mill. It was difficult to miss them standing as group behind the guests. You must have been deaf to ignore their roar of approval for the Chief. I would have thought that the issue of Cree employment should be at least as important as that of forestry and traplines.

You also failed to inform your readers that the Chief was honoured with the equivalent of a long and emotional standing ovation from his people at the sawmill site. I suppose that the short-lived shouting of a pair of protesters had more profound news value to you. But like I said, *The Nation* has this palpable obsession about downsizing Chief Kitchen at every occasion, even in his private life.

Of course, you can write whatever you want. But maybe you should try fiction. It pays more if you are successful.

Maybe if you have "cojones," you would print this letter in the next *Nation*.

Benoit Tremblay  
Waswanipi Council lawyer

*Editors Note: We would like to thank Benoit Tremblay for his letter. We feel certain points require clarification.*

*We strive to inform our readers about the forestry issue as it affects the Cree Nation. Of course, there are differing opinions and we have tried to report them accurately, including opinions that go against the grain. Providing the people with accurate information is the main reason *The Nation* was created.*

*In our article, we reported that a group of protesters was on hand at Premier Bouchard's visit. The Webster Dictionary defines "group" as "a number of individuals." Mr. Tremblay is misinformed as to the number of protesters. The group consisted of six people—four adults and two boys. No one was "forced" to come along. The boys, one of whom is Paul Dixon's son, asked to come along. Paul says no parent ever approached him with any complaint about the protest.*

*The article in *The Nation* focused on an act of vandalism to Paul's truck following the protest. In our judgement, this act highlighted the divisions in the community. We have no interest in making personal attacks or "downsizing" anyone. If there is news to report, then we will report it. As for writing fiction I think that you will agree that truth definitely is stranger (and more interesting) than fiction.*

# Mamweedow

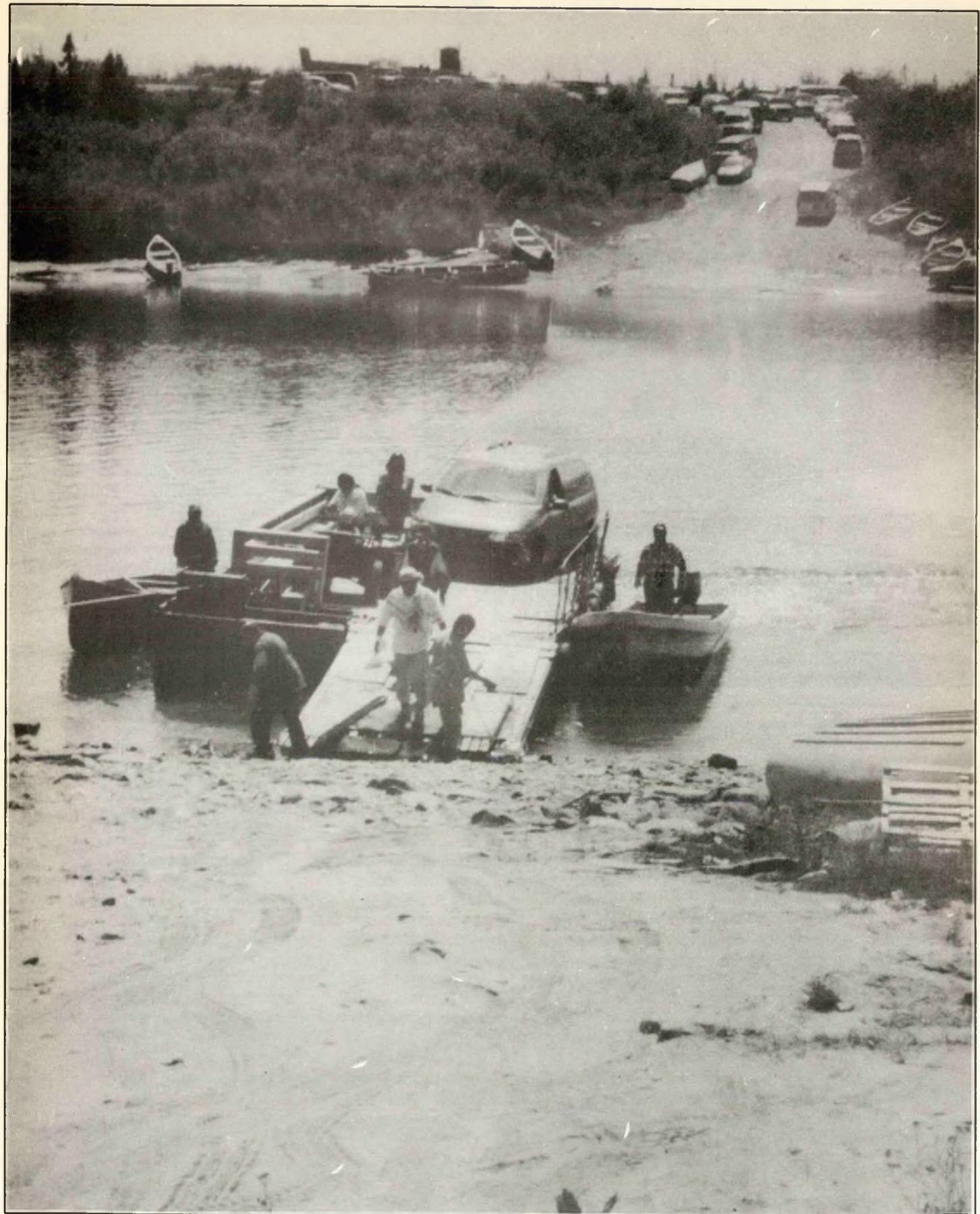
By Ernest Webb

A sweltering 35° had people tossing and turning in the hot early afternoon sun after a long night of dancing and singing. Even with the back end of the tent jacked up to create a cross breeze people were still looking for relief. Sometimes people had to take a boat ride out to the bay to beat the heat. The Ninth Annual Mamweedow Minshukch gave people another chance to meet old friends and new. People who left the island of Fort George did so only in body, the spirit never left. The trek from the canoe to the tent with our supplies took me on the paths of Crees past including my grandfather. Before the town was relocated, as a kid I went with my grandfather quite often to go hunting out to the bay. The walk to the canoe seemed to go on forever, especially with a heavy load on your back. Today as I walked on those same paths there was a familiarity as if I had never left. I was not alone. Everywhere you looked people had taken their rightful place. Some stayed and kept a lonely vigil to wait for those who left the island. July 10th to the 12th saw the Island of Fort George come to life again. At night the generator pumped life into the loudspeakers. The fiddlers made sure the dancefloor also came to life. While walking around waiting for dawn to break I heard people already talking about the tenth Annual next year.



PHOTOS BY ERNEST WEBB AND NEIL DIAMOND





# ARE YOU READY TO RUMBLE?

I feel your pain. These are hard times indeed for true action film fans. Please, God, don't make me sit through yet another overhyped, overrated "blockbuster" movie (i.e. Batman 3).

So you can imagine my happiness when the Fant-Asia Film Festival came to town this summer.

If you enjoy action, I mean action with a Capital A, truly kick-yer-ass action, then Fant-Asia will truly open your eyes. Started last year in Montreal, the festival treats action fans to 75 of the craziest, wackiest and most downright deranged movies ever made anywhere in the world.

Kung Fu is considered as one of the highest achievements of Chinese culture, and it shows in these maxed out films.

These are films made by people

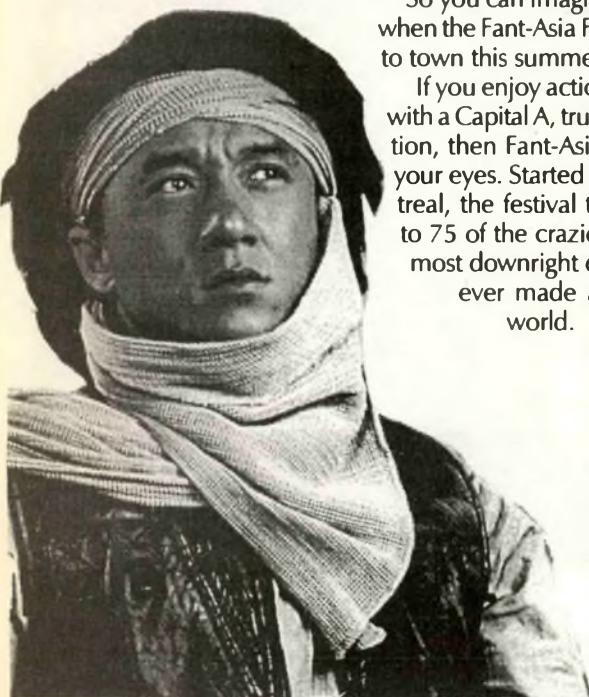
who take their art seriously. Many of the actors are famous martial artists, like Jet Li, who at 23 was a five-time Chinese Wushu champion. They do their own stunts, wind up with broken bones, and on top of that, they actually act instead of simply delivering cheezy one-liners like their American counterparts. While people doze off at Batman 3 and Con Air, they are lining up every night around the block to get into the Imperial Cinema where Fant-Asia is showing.

The excitement on-screen even occasionally spills out into the streets. A mini-riot broke out when 300 people were turned away from Drunken Master 2, one of the best films at this year's festival, starring Jackie Chan. Festival organizers scheduled two more showings of the film.

Last year, organizers expected 15-20,000 people. Over 55,000 came. Pierre Corbeil, the festival's director, said Asian films have caught on because people are tired of the same old boring McMovies we're getting from Hollywood these days. We commiserated about how bad Batman 3 was. "It was horrible," he laughed. "It was very spectacular, but that's not the essential part of story-telling. It's just explosions and fireworks. As an audience you feel cheated when you see that film. It's like they feel everyone is an idiot. Let's aim for the lowest common denominator," he said.

"Whereas the Asian movies, you go out of the theatre and they stay in your head. You have felt something. To me, that's a big difference."

Pick up a festival guide at 1430 Bleury (corner Ste. Catherine) or call (514) 982-1707. Here are some picks.



## Enter the Grand Chief

When I first heard Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come was a black belt, I was a little surprised. You don't expect people in politics to be into martial arts. But Matthew isn't your typical politician. The discipline and patience that sustained him through years of training in Karate would later be applied to fight for the rights of the Cree Nation. Matthew tells us about his experiences as a youth in the martial arts and we find out that he learned long ago how to fight an opponent by using their power against them. -Alex Roslin

***The Nation:*** How did you get started in martial arts and what did you take?

Matthew Coon Come: I was involved for seven years. I started when I was about 15. I took it in the Hull-Ottawa area. I started off in LaTuque briefly, but I did most of it in Hull-Ottawa. I studied Shotokan Karate. But there are many divisions in Shotokan. I studied Shito-Ryu.

**Did you feel that experience changed you in any way?**

As a young 15-year-old, the reason you go into it is different. It has nothing to do with self-defense or discipline. You only learn

that later on. I think I went in for the wrong reasons. But I think after three months in there I realized it required a lot of discipline, a lot of self-control, and I felt that was a challenge. It kept me in school. It was something I could look forward to.

Eventually we did bring it home to Mistissini. People recall that we started a club in Mistissini for a couple of summers. At one time we had 100 people. They all thought they were Bruce Lee after two weeks! (laughs)... You always could tell which ones were serious and which ones weren't. Most Karate outfits usually weed out the people who take it for the wrong reasons. They purposely do a lot of stretch exercises for the first two or three months. Then you weed out these people. I went into weaponry too.

**Which ones did you learn?**  
Nunchucks, shai and the shaft.

**Do you still practice?**

Sometimes at home I do all the Katas. I always thought it was a good form of exercise. It keeps you in shape.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



## I won't forget

I won't see your smile  
And I won't hear you cry,  
laugh any more  
Every day  
I won't see you  
but in my dreams I will.

I'll never forget you  
I'll never let you out of my  
heart  
You will always be here with  
me  
I'll hold on to the memories  
that we made.

Can you hear me  
Wherever you  
may be tonight  
Are you listening to me  
I want you to be by my side

I never said "Good-bye"  
It isn't right  
I should have said it  
but it was too sudden

Somewhere I know you'll be  
with  
Someday in another time  
But right now you're gone  
you vanished out of my life  
But I'll never leave behind,  
or forget you.



# MUSHUAU INNU RELOCATION PROJECT

## PREPARATION OF FINAL ENGINEERING DESIGN OF WHARF, AIRPORT AND MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR NATUASHISH

On 13 November, 1996, the Mushuau Innu Band Council, the Government of Canada and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador executed the *Mushuau Innu Relocation Agreement*. Under the terms of the Agreement, the Mushuau Innu of Davis Inlet will build a new village at a site on the adjacent mainland known as Natuashish. The studies preceding the Agreement included feasibility studies and preliminary designs of a wharf, airport and municipal infrastructure.

The Mushuau Innu Band Council/Mushuau Innu Relocation Corporation ("MIBC/MIRC") are seeking the services of firms to assist them in preparing the final design and construction tendering documents for the following three project elements: 1) Wharf; 2) Airport; and 3) Municipal Infrastructure.

The MIBC/MIRC hereby solicit expressions of interest from qualified firms. The expressions of interest must be limited to a four-page description, accompanied by the relevant corporate profile, of why the firm feels that it is qualified to undertake this task and how it would approach the task, if selected. Expressions of interest exceeding four pages may be rejected. Prior aboriginal and northern experience is a prerequisite. A firm may submit expressions of interest for any number of project elements. Firms submitting more than one expression of interest must, however, submit a separate one for each project element. A limited number of firms will be invited to submit a detailed, costed offer of service for each project element.

A copy of the Terms of Reference (TOR) for each project element can be obtained by calling Mr. Andy Kozina or Ms. Edith Dallaire at (514) 482-6887.

Non-refundable deposits in the form of a certified cheque payable to "Mushuau Innu Band Council" are required as follows: Wharf TOR-\$125; Airport TOR-\$125, Municipal Infrastructure TOR-\$150.

Expressions of interest must be submitted in hard copy by 5 p.m. (Montreal time) on 11 August, 1997, to:

Client's Representative  
Mushuau Innu Band Council/Mushuau Relocation Corporation  
5800, avenue Monkland, 2nd floor, Montréal (Québec), H4A 1G1  
Fax: (514) 482-0036

for understanding me and for being there when I need you. Love always, April. P.S. I miss you.

**Happy 1st anniversary** to our brother Tommy Gull and his wife April Georgekish Gull on July 26. And three weeks before, their son Brandon Gull was born on July 4, 1996. A happy first birthday to our little nephew. We wish we'd seen you blow out your first candle, little guy. All the best to your little family, Bro. take care of that little guy. See you soon! With love, from your sisters Deidre and Maxine and also from Joey and little niece and cousin Chantal. (Waswanipi) xxoxoxox1/2.

**Happy 15th anniversary** to our wonderful parents on July 28. Elizabeth and Willie. We love you so much. Love always, your children, Bobby, Marty, Joan-Marie, Jeremy and Sherri-lynn. (Whap)

Two special people in our lives will be celebrating their 22nd anniversary on August 6. Gilbert and Linda, you both are the greatest and most wonderful parents anyone could ask for. And we would also like to say we love you and not a day goes by that we don't think of you. By the way, hope you have fun on your anniversary. Love always, Diane, Pamela and Melinda Georgekish.

I would like to wish my husband Rusty Moar a happy 7th anniversary on July 27th. I love you very much. Love always, your wife Charlotte.

Happy anniversaries to our parents

and grandparents Janie and Robert Kanatewat on July 13th and to Winnie and Bert Moar on July 25th. All our love, Charlotte and Rusty and your grandchildren, Steve, Candi and Darius Moar.

**Happy 7th anniversary** to Alice and Reginald Sam on July 27th, 1997. From Charlotte, Rusty Moar and kids.

Mnohaya lita, Philip. WUSSUP? Shchastya i zdorovya na tvoi dorazi. Alex

## 104-GRADUATIONS

Congratulations to my grandmother Margaret Wadden who graduated from Adult Ed. professional Cooking on 1997. With love always, your granddaughter Demi-Lynn Hester Wadden.

Congratulations to my cousin in Chisasibi Dorrianna Bobbish who graduated Kindergarten on June 18. Good luck and have fun in grade one. And hope you won't miss school again during school year. Well hope you see me again. From all the way in Mistissini, your l'il cousin Evander Brian Gunner. xoxoxox. P.S. My mommy and daddy sends their love to you and your bros and sister.

## 300-PERSONALS

Hi to a very special guy in Chisasibi Clayton Visitor. I miss seeing on the ice. Keep up the good work. Remember you are very special inside and make yourself

happy!!!(ooooowu2w).

To someone I will like to know if she doing o.k.. It's been a long time since I've had news about her. Her name is Judy Moar from Waskaganish. From your ex-lover! Write to me soon. RR, 851, 3e Road West, Amos, Que., J9T 2T4.

Hi to our aunt Kathleen and our cousins Douglas, Jamie (Baby Boy) Maggie and JR in Waswanipi. We miss you a lot. Can you come and visit sometime? Love always, Kenny, John, Jennifer, Harriet and babes Kate

Looking for Cree girlfriend. Must be 21 to 24. Write to Rick Wabasse. Summer Beaver, Ontario. POT 3B0.

I would like to say a quik hello to a kind, generous gentleman and I must not forget handsome man named Jimbo in Nemaska. Hi sugar pie! So how have you been doing this past few months since I last saw you in April eh, honey? As for me things are going just great except there is one thing, I just can't stop thinking about you and I miss you terribly. I guess it's all because you're just too much! Anyways, take care of your self for me and don't party too much because I don't have to worry. alright handsome? From a secret admirer. P.S. You might remember me from when I last seen you in Chibougamau at the beginning of Goose break this

year and you had this beautiful tan that you probably got from working to hard in the bush. Also we went for a little walk afterwards and you told me that you were going to Val d'Or on that following week. To bad we only gave each other a hug, it always could off been more! So do you remember me?

There's someone out there who really loves and cares about me. And she's a really independent, cheerful and a wonderful person. Everytime when I have a problem I go to her, she understands what I am going through in my life. She's the kind of person who can laugh with, trust with. And Everytime when I think about her, I can hear the laughter, the joy and those wonderful times we use to have together. I just want to thank her and the advice you always gave me, it always work. And that person is my bestfriend, Misty Cheezo, who I really love her and cared everyday in my life. I hope our friendship will never end and even though we're miles away from each other. Love always, your best friend, Nian Moses (Mtl)

Just wanted to remind someone special that I miss him and love him with all my heart. Michael C. in Nemaska, I wish we could be together everyday. You'll always be my only one. I love you and I miss you. I hate being away from you. Hope you come back soon. With love always, Diane.

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# To all Business People

Eeyou Economic Group/  
CFDC Inc. Waswanipi

## NOTICE

If you need assistance in:

- Planning
- Marketing
- Re-Organization
- Expansion or new business ideas
- Financial Records

The Eeyou Economic Group has organized an after care program to help Cree business. This program will bring a business specialist from the firm of Haida Kloo Training to your community on a scheduled basis until March of 1998.

Please note the following schedule:

*Waswanipi*

July 24-25 & July 31-August 1, 1997

*Ouje Bougoumou*

July 25 & 26, 1997

*Mistissini*

July 26 - 29, 1997

*Nemaska*

July 29-30, 1997

*Waskaganish*

August 18-20, 1997

*Eastmain*

August 20-21, 1997

*Wemindji*

August 21-26, 1997

*Chisasibi*

August 26 - September 1, 1997

*Whapmagoostui*

September 1-3, 1997

**CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT**  
Your Economic Development Office  
in your community  
or  
Eeyou Economic Group/CFDC -  
Robert Kitchen 1-819-753-2560

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